

FIRST-HAND INSIGHTS

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GRANTS



PUBLIC EDUCATION



POLICY

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CTF HIGHLIGHT REEL



LEGISLATIVE OUTCOMES:

Good News for Kids!



2023 was a historic session for Missouri children, with substantial increases in funding for core early childhood services. Some of the funding increases CTF advocated for included:

- **\$78 million for child care subsidy increases**
- **\$55 million for Pre-K expansion**
- **\$117 million increase for Children's Division, including 110 additional FTEs**
- **\$1 million for home visiting Collective Impact**
- **\$2 million for evidence-based home visiting**

Much credit goes to Governor Mike Parson for proposing many of these increases in his budget and advocating for this historic investment. CTF is also very grateful for the leadership of KidsWin Missouri and the early childhood coalition they have formed to support Missouri's youngest children.

In addition to these budgetary increases, a bill to expand Medicaid coverage from 60 days to a year postpartum passed. This bill, which has been long-sought and proposed for many years, is vitally important to promoting the health and wellness of moms and their babies. The Children's Trust Fund is thrilled with the outcomes from the 2023 legislative session and the many family-friendly policies passed by the Missouri General Assembly.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

CTF Home Visiting Outcomes Rate Card (ORC) Expanded Statewide

Last year, CTF launched the pilot Outcomes Rate Card Initiative to incentivize certain Home Visiting metrics, including:

- Prenatal enrollment
- Healthcare use
- Breastfeeding & Safe Sleep
- Goal Setting & Achievement
- Unity of data entry



This year, CTF is excited to implement a new, statewide ORC initiative that will measure similar metrics, expand access to services, strengthen data collection, and provide Missouri-specific data on performance.

CTF will release \$2 million each for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Direct Home Visiting Services between FY24-27.

Beginning in FY24, CTF will award up to \$500k annually each for Direct Home Visiting Services and Childhood Sexual Abuse Prevention, which, over the course of a four-year funding period for each program will total to up to \$2 million each. CTF is excited to begin the review and selection process and will have more information on program selection in the coming weeks.



CTF will award up to \$500k annually through FY27 to support direct home visiting services in Missouri with an emphasis on serving high-poverty areas with the intention of reaching families in the most need.



CTF will award up to \$500k annually in new funding for projects preventing child sexual abuse in Missouri. Child sexual abuse has serious social, emotional, health and economic consequences, and CTF is dedicated to finding solutions that protect children.

The next chapter of CTF's Something We Agree On campaign is underway

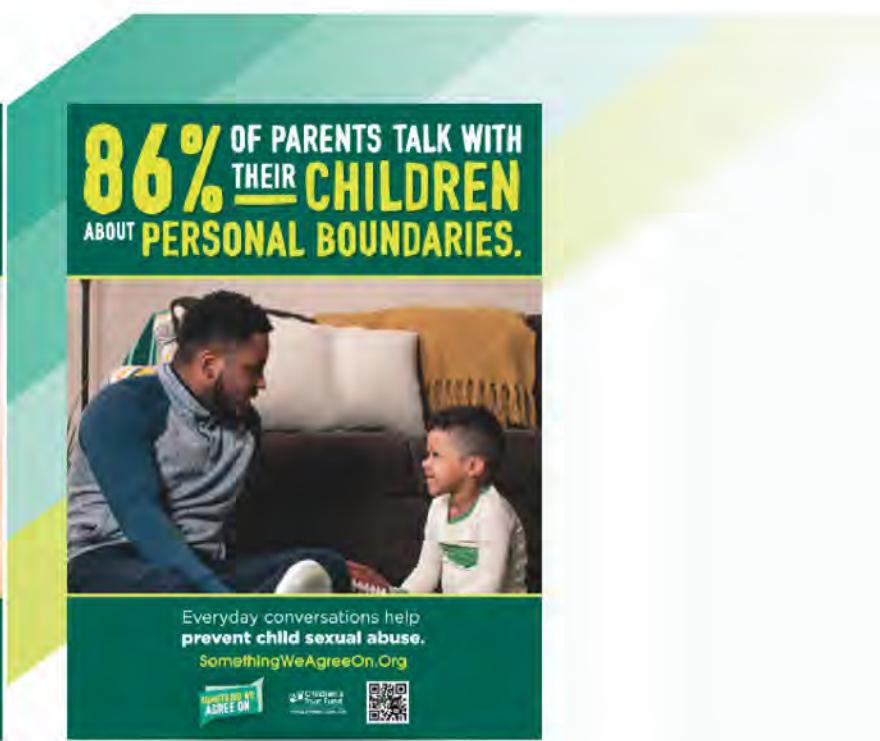
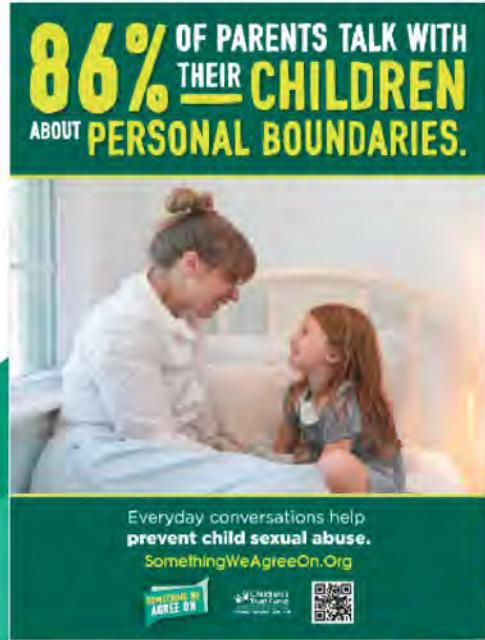
For the past several months, CTF has reflected on the successes and challenges of the initial launch of our Something We Agree On campaign. We had discussions with our partners, researched the issues, and conducted focus groups with professionals and those with lived experience.

Now, we are redirecting these reflections into three exciting updates:

- A relaunch of a statewide childhood sexual abuse prevention campaign, currently underway
- Additional resources and web development currently in development
- An additional campaign focus will be added to our website: **corporal punishment prevention**, which is currently in development and expected to launch early next fiscal year

To learn more about our current campaign or to find resources and materials, visit SomethingWeAgreeOn.org. We would love to hear your feedback or ideas for resources to add to our website. Please send any feedback to CTF's Public Education Coordinator at Bryanna.Barber@oa.mo.gov.

Last year, CTF launched the culmination of a years-long effort to help end Child Sexual Abuse in Missouri. In partnership with the Montana Institute who conducted and analyzed survey results for 1,000 Missourians, and Bucket Media, our campaign developers, CTF launched Something We Agree On and focused marketing efforts on four high-risk regions of Missouri.



CTF and the University of Oklahoma partner on Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Training for professionals working with youth who have problematic sexual behaviors (PSB-CBT Learning Collab)

Starting this month, CTF and the University of Oklahoma will conduct the first of three 3-day training sessions for our child sexual abuse prevention grantees who work with youth who have displayed problematic sexual behaviors and tendencies. The nationally-recognized treatment model from OU is an intensive 16-18 week therapy model for children aged 7-12 years with group and family modality used.

OU says the mission of the learning collaborative is to increase access to evidence-based treatment for children implemented with fidelity and to build the organizational and community capacity necessary for agencies to implement, sustain and continue to improve the delivery of evidence-based practices over time.

CTF is excited to learn alongside our teams as a part of this collaborative and implement what we believe to be the gold standard of sexual abuse prevention and intervention in Missouri. To learn more about CTF's approach to sexual abuse prevention, check out our factsheet in partnership with Johns Hopkins called Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: The Who, What, Why, and How.



While sexual exploration is a natural part of childhood and adolescent sexual development, some youth sexual behavior indicates more than harmless curiosity. In cases where sexual behaviors pose a risk to the safety or well-being of the youth and others, it is imperative for families and communities to intervene through proper identification, support, and treatment.

Problematic Sexual Behavior - Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy™ (PSB-CBT™) is a comprehensive family-based clinical treatment intervention for children and adolescents with problematic and illegal sexual behaviors.

A conversation with Good Samaritan Boys Ranch Leadership

Late last year, CTF staff traveled to Brighton, Missouri and spoke at length with Good Samaritan Leadership, Casey Wray (CEO) and Matt Moncado (COO) about the ranch and the treatment they are most well-known for: helping youth with problematic sexual behaviors. The following is a small sample of that conversation, which has been extensively edited for length, clarity and brevity. [The complete story](#) is on our website with more background on the issue and the ranch.

What are some of the challenges you face in PSB treatment?

I think we need to be careful about what our kids are exposed to. I don't think we need to be fearful or prude, but I firmly believe that pornography is at the root of this. We have to be honest about it and have awareness of the risks and the escalation of behavior. It also doesn't mean that every kid who looks at pornography is going to do these things, but if they've been traumatized, and exposed to things, I think a lot of times they'll be more likely to struggle.

As soon as PSB is no longer an issue, I will celebrate that, and we will go full force into whatever else we can do for kids and families on the prevention side. I think there are some things we can do to curtail some of these sexual behaviors before we see identified victims. It's going to take some destigmatizing, education, and some awareness building within communities to understand these issues.



What do you wish everyone understood about these sorts of behaviors among youth?

I wish everyone understood the nature of where it comes from, and we really try to address this in our Catalyst Program: Trauma is the reason. To understand any struggle, it begins with trauma. If we begin with that conversation, it makes it so much easier to empathize, understand and meaningfully support these kids.

I would also go back to the fact that it's a health issue; and, guess what: We've all got health issues. If I frame it like that, it becomes a more accessible concept. Also, we want people to understand these youth can still go on to have happy and healthy lives. They can get better. These behaviors are not an indication that these youth will always present a risk to the community.



More about Casey Wray:

Before becoming CEO of the Ranch in January 2020, Casey Wray was the Vice President of Operations for 16 years and worked as a Residential Therapist prior to that. He has built a career helping children and families heal from PSB, Sexual Boundary Violations and Trauma.

Casey believes and imparts among his team that trauma is the root of the issue: **They're just kids.**

THE HIGHLIGHT REEL:



Above:
CTF participated in a successful Child Advocacy Day with partners at Kids Win Missouri on March 21st. It was the first in-person CAD event since the pandemic.



Above: CTF staff Go Blue on April 7th and plant a pinwheel garden for child abuse prevention.

To left: Some of our partners and grantees sent us their go-blue photos on April 7th to support Child Abuse Prevention!